



Preconditions Sponsorship Requirement

Before a new educator preparation unit may go through its initial accreditation visit by the state, it must:

- a. have its Preconditions document approved by the State, and
- b. have a cohort of candidates (minimum of 6-10) complete the program, enabling the unit to have performance data at each of its benchmarks throughout the unit assessment system available for examination by the Board of Examiners team at its initial accreditation visit. (This visit usually happens 3 years after the approval of the Preconditions document and subsequent implementation of the program.)

At the time of submission of its Preconditions document to the state, the unit also must submit a letter of agreement between the unit and the sponsoring institution, that is accredited by NCATE standards, stating that the institution is willing to recommend program completers for licensure and to accept these program completers as its own for Title II reporting purposes until the new unit is initially accredited.

What does this mean for the sponsoring institution?

The sponsoring institution must maintain an 80% pass rate for all of its program completers to assure that Standard 1 is MET at its next accreditation visit. To be assured that the program completers from the new unit's program will meet this requirement, it is recommended that, at a minimum, the sponsoring institution be cognizant of the new unit's preconditions document, conceptual framework and unit assessment system. Common practice is to appoint a faculty liaison from the sponsoring institution to oversee that relationship with the new unit.

What does this mean for the new unit?

It is recommended that the new unit provide copies of the Preconditions document, conceptual framework and unit assessment system to the institution asked to serve as the sponsor for the new unit's program completers. This will allow the sponsoring institution to have a basic understanding of the new unit's program and processes for the preparation of its future candidates.

December 2006